

Please do not loosen or eliminate U.S. media ownership regulations.

After the 1996 telecommuincations bill was enacted, radio station regulations were loosened and now the music business and radio stations are owned by about three large corporations. One of these corporations, Clear Channel, is an excellent example of why loosening or eliminating regulations is not good for the public and democracy.

Clear Channel radio stations, which number in the thousands across the country, are cookie cutter formats with no local news. During the war on Iraq, Clear Channel, which is owned by a friend of Bush, held pro-war rallies, and it was impossible to get an opposing view of the war on any of their stations.

The airwaves are owned by the public, and with the consolidation of the radio stations under two or three corporations, it is especially hard to get opposing viewpoints aired. Since democracy is based on knowledge and discussion of all sides of an issue, this does not serve the public.

If the FCC is allowed to loosen or eliminate the current regulations, the same thing will happen with television that has happened with radio. The 1996 law did not work, and this should be a wake up call not to let deregulation of the media go any further.

Sincerely,

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